Protecting and improving streambanks

Streams will naturally erode in some circumstances. But intense agriculture often speeds up the erosion of streambanks. Keeping livestock away from streambanks and providing a buffer between cropland and streams can go a long way in keeping streams from eroding.

Once a stream has begun eroding, there are programs that can help stabilize the bank.

Programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service — NRCS technical assistance: NRCS staff provide technical help on streambank stabilization.

EQIP — Environmental Quality Incentives Program: Some streambank protection practices are eligible under the EQIP program.

Many EQIP priority areas target livestock issues. Fencing livestock out of streams helps stabilize the streambank. Cost share may be available through EQIP. Check locally for information about local practices eligible for cost share.

Continuous CRP — Conservation Reserve Program: Riparian buffers and filter strips can be established along streams under the continuous CRP. The land must meet eligibility criteria of the program. See your county USDA Service Center for program rules.

REAP — Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: Local Conservation Districts can receive REAP funds. Check with the Conservation District to see if they have funds available for improving streambanks.

Fish and Wildlife Private Lands Funds provide up to 65% for wildlife habitat improvement that may include bank stabilization by rip-rap, bioengineering or a combination of the above. NRCS can offer design assistance and help in applying for all necessary permits. Funding comes through the local Conservation District. See wildlife habitat for more FWS programs.

Pheasants Forever: Funding or material assistance to improve CRP seedings, establish CRP filterstrips, riparian buffers, etc. may be available from your local Pheasants Forever chapter.

Program guide for Streambanks

	NRCS	FSA	CD	PF	FWS
Technical help	✔		✔	✔	✔
Financial help	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔